Rio Arriba County Detention Center
(RACDC) POLICY 092 RELIGIOUS SERVICES

It is the policy of the Rio Arriba County Detention Facility that services be made available for inmate wishing to attend religious services.

Procedure:

1.   Whenever possible, inmates will be allowed the opportunity to:

    a.   Assemble and worship in the religion of their choice.

    b.   Receive individual religious counseling.

2.   No employee of the Rio Arriba County Detention Facility shall deny any inmate his/her right to worship and practice the religion of his/her choice. Restrictions pertaining to the worship and practice are limited only to limitations necessary to maintain order and security of the facility.

3.   The Rio Arriba County Detention Facility staff shall make a room available for inmates wishing to congregate for religious purposes.

4.   The administration shall encourage any religious organization wishing to visit the facility to do so.

5.   Individual counseling shall be pre-approved by administration.

6.   A schedule of visiting clergy shall be approved by administration preferably for Sundays.

7.   Any visiting clergy shall be subject to searches as described in the search policy.

8.   All inmates attending religious services shall be properly counted and supervised.

9.   Housing unit control officers shall announce to all inmates that religious services will be held and escort those inmates wishing to attend.

10.   Only inmates of the same classification will be allowed to meet in the same room.

11.   Maximum security inmate wishing to visit shall have the time spent with clergy accounted as the time spent out of their cell toward the one hour they are allowed.

12.   Detention officer shall not remain in the same room where the services are being held unless requested to do so by the clergy.

13.   Regular checks shall be done of the areas where the services are held.

14.   Names of inmates attending the services shall be logged in the housing unit control log.